

1942.-48.

XL
File No. 1932/36

B CLASS

P. W.

DEPARTMENT

El. BRANCH

Subject:—Public Electric Supply Undertakings
New Licenses and extensions of
Licenses to New Areas.
Restriction of —

XL
File No. 1932/36

Correspondence

Sectt 78 A e

DOCKET SHEET (B)

Subject:--

File No.

1932/36 XL

P. V. DEPT.

Ed. BRANCH.

References:--

Date,	To whom sent.	Notes instructions,

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

SECRET.

No. A826

Dated New Delhi, the 6th March 1942.

From

D.S. Joshi, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Public Works Department.

Subject:- Public electricity supply undertakings. New
licenses and of extension of existing licenses to
new areas. Restriction of-

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Department's letter
No. A826 dated 21st November 1941 and to address your Government
you
further in the matter.

2. From some of the references received from Provincial Government in response to this letter it is apparent that in respect of some proposals for supply of electrical energy some preliminary steps either informal or formal may have been taken by provincial Governments with regard to the eventual grant of licenses under the Indian Electricity Act. Such steps may amount merely to an intimation from the Provincial Government that a license will be offered or an additional direction to a undertaking to get on with the preliminaries essential to making the supply of electrical energy or in some cases it may even be a distinct offer of a license.

3. It is evident that the extent of legal liability on the provincial Government in individual cases will depend upon the circumstances of each case.

4. As Provincial Governments are now aware (vide this Department's letter No. A826 dated 25/26th February 1942) the general position of electrical plant and equipment is now so serious as to require every effort in the conservation of available resources. It would follow that in respect of licenses for fresh supply or extension of existing supply should whenever possible, be refused and if such refusal may entail ~~entail~~ ^{entail} undue legal liability on the provincial Government, the next alternative would be to grant a suspended license to come into operation at a certain period after the duration of the war. It will greatly assist the consideration of cases if provincial Governments, will, when referring such cases to the Government of India, also inform them whether and to what extent the Provincial Government would in any way be liable for damages if a license were refused or only a suspended license were granted.

5. I am to add that the Government of India will do their best to find a suitable location for any plant and equipment which has actually been purchased by any individual undertaking with a view to save it from any financial loss and information about such plant and equipment may kindly be furnished to the Government of India Whenever possible.

6. In the preliminary consideration of cases for the grant of licenses the provincial Government will no doubt bear in mind that it will be impossible to assist any individual undertaking in obtaining additional plant and equipment except in cases where such supply would be absolutely essential.

7. It will also be appreciated that the position about plant and equipment has to be viewed for India as a whole and

the more.....

the mere fact that an individual undertaking has already been successful in obtaining the whole or part of its requirement would not be a factor in favour of the grant of a license to it .

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Yours most obedient servant,

Sd/-
Under secretary to the Government of India.

Copy forwarded for information to the Electrical
~~commissioner~~ commissioner with the Government of India.
17th Esplanade Mansions,, Calcutta.

By order. etc..

D.A.N11

CH.S.6/3/42

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

M.N.P.
Issued
11/3/42

N.B.Note.

A copy of this letter may be sent
to the C.S. and the Secy. and
then it will be submitted with the necessary note

9/3/42

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

No. A826.

Dated New Delhi, the 5th March 1942.

From

D.S. Joshi, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Public Works Department.

Subject:-

Limit of pressure of supply in the case of low or medium pressure under rule 28 of the Indian Electricity Rules, 1937 proposed raising of the from 5 to 8 per cent.

Sir,

In continuation of this Department letter No. A826 dated the 25th February 1942 on the subject of restriction orders on Electricity Supply undertakings, I am directed to state that in the interests of conserving available supplies of copper wire cables and other distribution equipment it is desirable that the percentage up to which the pressure of supply of energy can be varied by a licensee under Rule 28 of the Indian Electricity Rules, should be raised from 5 to 8 per cent in the case of low and medium pressure. I am accordingly to request that / if the Government of B O M B A Y see no objection / the licensed electric supply undertakings in the Province of

* within your jurisdiction may be advised that the Provincial Government would be prepared in the case of those undertakings whose mains and equipment are over-loaded to sanction the raising of the limit from 5 to 8 per cent where the circumstances justify this step.

2. The circumstances under which the Provincial Governments would be justified in sanctioning the higher limit will obviously vary and Electrical Inspectors should examine each case in the light of the local conditions and the effect on the undertaking in avoiding the importation or using up of reserve stocks of copper wire, cables and distribution equipments. In all cases where sanction is given by the Provincial Government the undertaking should be instructed to advise the consumers within the localities where the pressure of supply varies beyond 5 per cent to enable them to use lower (or in rare cases higher) pressure bulbs and other electrical equipments and accessories connected to such supplies.

3. I am further to request that the central Government and the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India, Calcutta may be advised of all such sanctions given by Provincial Government.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

D.A. Nil.

RL.5

Provincial
Governments
only
ditto-
to Chief
Commissioner-
and only

1932/36
M.B.

P.W.D.

Submitted (with S No. 6332)

2. The main file is under U.O.R. to the
El. Engr. to Govt.

3. The letter on page 1 refer to the grant
of licenses for fresh supply or extension
of existing supply. The observations made
by the Govt. will be followed in dealing with such cases. *India.*

4. There seems no objections to accept
the proposal of the Govt. overleaf & the
licensed supply undertaking addressed as *India.*
advised by that Govt. The El. Engr. to
the Government may see U.O. for remarks, if any.

5. It does not seem necessary to send
a copy of the letter overleaf to the C.S.
and the Secy-G.

14/3/42

As in para 4 of O.N.

16/3 D.S.

Sd/-

N.C.R. with El. Engr. to Government
Dated 17th Nov. 1942.

U.O.

Below U.O.R.No.1932/36/6340 dated the 17th March 1942.
from Government in the Public Works Department.

No.LRMSI/4286 of 1942.
Bombay. 18th March 1942.

Returned, with compliments.

2. The proposal to increase the limit allowed by Rule 28 from 5 per cent to 8 per cent in the case of low and medium pressure will not be beneficial in the case of 8 per cent over the stipulated voltage for lamps, radio sets and apparatus working off transformers. In view of the fact that the Electric Inspectors have the power to examine each case in the light of local conditions, the proposed variation may be accepted by this Government..

Sd/-

Electrical Engineer to Govt.

No. 1932/36-M
Public Works Department
Bombay Castle, 26th March 1942.

From
The Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay
Public Works Department

To
All the Electrical Licensees and
sanction holders in the Province of Bombay.

Subject:- Limit of pressure of supply in the case of
low or medium pressure under rule 28 of the
Indian Electricity Rules, 1937.

Dear Sir ,
Sirs

I am directed to invite attention to rule 28 of the
Indian Electricity Rules, 1937, and to advise that the Provin-
cial Government is prepared in the case of those undertakings
whose mains and equipments are overloaded to sanction the
raising of the limit of 5 per cent prescribed in the case of
low and medium pressure in the rule referred to, to 8 per cent
where the circumstances justify this step.

Yours faithfully .

Sd/-S.H.Hanabto.

2713142 - O.C .

Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Public Works Department.

D.A.-Nil.

Copy forwarded, with compliments, to the Electrical
Engineer to Government for information with reference to his
Memorandum No. L&M 31/4236, dated the 18th March 1942.

Gr.26/3

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR
CENTRAL ELECTRICAL POWER CONTROL BOARD.

No. AB26

Dated New Delhi the 25th April 1942.

From

D.S. Joshi, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India,
and Secretary, Central Electric Power
Control Board.

To

All Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners,
Delhi, Baluchistan, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg.

Sir,

In this Department's letter No. AB25, dated 6th March 1942 it was suggested that in certain circumstances a suspended license may be granted, to come into operation at a certain period after the duration of the war. A request has now been received to elucidate the term "Suspended license".

What was intended by a "suspended license" is that the period for the completion of compulsory works specified in the license may be extended. ~~Under~~ vide clause IV to the Schedule to the Electricity Act. I am to request that this extended period may, for uniformity, be laid down at three years after the termination of war. The Provincial Government should also make it clear to the applicant that the Government of India will not entertain any application for and/or assistance will be given in securing priority for obtaining plant, fuel, oil or any other material required by the licensee. The Government of India will also not hesitate in requisitioning for their needs any plant obtained by such applicants without Government assistance.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GD/-

Under Secretary to the Government of
India, and Secretary, Central Electric
Power Control Board.

D.A.Hill.

Copy forwarded to members of the Central Electric
Power Control Board for information.

By order, etc.,

GD/-

Under Secretary to the Government of India,
and Secretary, Central Electric Power
Control Board.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

No. A852

Dated New Delhi, the 7th september 1943.

From

W.G. Lamarque, Esq., I.C.S.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All provincial Governments and Chief of Commissioners..

Subject:- Public electricity supply undertakings New Licences and extension of existing licences to new areas -
Restriction of-.

Sir,

I am to refer to this Department letter No. A826 dated the 6th March 1942 and to address you further in the matter.

2. The general supply position as regards electrical plant and equipment remains so serious that it is necessary to take all possible steps for the conservation of available resources. The limited quantities of electrical equipment which are in stock or can continue to be obtained should be utilised only for the effective prosecution of the war or the development of industry associated with the national war economy. Until the generating and wire positions improve the need for enforcing rigidly restrictions in respect of fresh supply or extension of existing supply will remain.

Unless therefore the supply is necessary for essential works such as supply to military works, aerodromes etc. it is necessary that -

(a) the grant of new licences to supply and amendments of existing licences extending areas of supply should be discontinued

(b) in case where licences have been granted but supply has not commenced, the Provincial Government should where possible by the terms and conditions of the licence, withhold permission to commence supply and where not so possible discourage the licensee from proceeding with the erection of the works, resorting to the issue of a Restraining order under the Defence of India Rules, should this become necessary and

(c) in cases where supply has commenced and the compulsory works to be erected under the terms of the licence have still to be completed the licensee should be discouraged from proceeding with the erection of the works and served with a restraining order under the Defence of India Rules, should this become necessary.

3.

The legal implications of refusing a permit or withdrawing authority to commence supply will require examination in individual cases. The cases will probably fall into two main groups.

(a) those in which the application for the licence or extension of the area of supply was in no way initiated by the provincial Government but in which the initiative was wholly with the licensee. In such cases there should be no difficulty in taking action on the licences recommended, in para 2 above;

(b) cases in which some initiative was taken by the Provincial Government. In such cases, if it is felt that it is not advisable to refuse a permit for commencement of supply where permits are necessary or issue a Restraining order under the Defence of India Rules prohibiting commencement of supply or the erection of compulsory works and the Provincial Government considers it essential in view of its previous commitments to allow the supply to be commenced or works to be proceeded with, it would be necessary in view of the need of minimising consumption of

electrical

electrical materials that these licensees should be served with a control order and that that the control order should be operated strictly from the outset particularly in respect of residential accommodation. It must be realized that in such cases residential accommodation will probably have other methods of lighting and cooling and therefore strict enforcement of the Control order will not cause as much hardship as in cases of new construction.

4. The necessity of restricting progress in undertakings in respect of which preliminary steps have been taken makes it advisable that provincial Governments should give as wide publicity as possible to the position, and that such publicity should bring home to the public the risks involved in fitting their premises for electric supply in anticipation of the issue of permit.

5. The Central Government have considered whether claims for damages or compensation ~~may~~ would arise out of the various circumstances in which licensees have been unable fully to comply with the terms of their licenses. It is felt that the circumstances are so numerous and of such complexity that it is impossible to give any general indication when a claim to damage or compensation would lie and that all claims will require examination on merits.

6. / The Athani Electric license vide correspondence ending with your letter No. 1105/36-M dated the 17th April 1943 may now be disposed of in the accordance with the principles enunciated above./

I have the honour to be
Sir,

Yours most obedient servant,

For
Bombay
Govt.
Only./

Sd/-
Under Secretary to the Government of India

Copy forwarded to the Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India, 4, Hastings, street, Calcutta, with reference to his unofficial reference No. El. C. 10/11- M. dated the 24th July 1943.

Sd/-
Under Secretary to Government of India.

(El. Br.)
Submitted

P.W.D.

2. With a view to conserving the limited quantities of electrical equipment which are available for the effective prosecution of the war or the development of industry associated with the national war economy the G. of I. have suggested certain lines of action in paras 2 and 4 of their letter under disposal.

3. Clause (a) of the sub-para. of para 2 of the G. of I letter has been noted. In respect of the clause (b) there are seven inoperative El. Licenses. Attention is invited to the O.M. of even date on the linked file. To be on the safe side a Restraining order under the D. of I. Rule 81 may be served on these coys. which are not allowed to commence supply of el. energy discouraging them from proceeding with the erection of the works. The El. Engr. to Govt. may be requested u.o. to submit a draft thereof.

4. There are no cases of the nature referred to in clause (c) of the sub-para. of para.2 of the G. of I letter.

5. As regards para. 4 of the G. of I letter, the draft press Note put up for approval may issue after the El. Engr. to Government. has seen it.

sd/-

3/11/43

U.O.R. to the electrical Engr. to the
Government of Bombay 4th Nov. 1943.

Draft Order.

Public Works Department

ORDER.

No. In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (2) of rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, the Government of Bombay is pleased to make the following order:-

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910 (IX of 1910) or in the license granted thereunder, or in any contract or agreement, the shall not commence erection of any works or where such erection has already been commenced prior to this order, shall not proceed further with such erection of works necessary for the purpose of supply of electrical energy, whilst this order remains in force.

Sc/-

Electrical Engineer to Govt.

Below U.O.R.No.1932/36/24776 dated
the 4th November 1943, from Government in
the public Works Department.

No. LHM.31/3872 of 1943.

Bombay 1st December 1943.

Returned, with compliments.

2. A draft of the order restricting
the erection of works in the cases where
licenses are granted but supply has not
commenced, is enclosed.

3. The draft Press-Note at pp.19-20
appears to be in order.

4. The information required in connection
with the seven inoperative licenses has
been called for from the Electric Inspector,
Bombay Province, and as soon as it is received,
the linked case (file No. 1105/36) will be
returned to Government.

Sd/-

Electrical Engineer to Govt.

1932/36/34376..

El. Br.

Submitted with ref. to the O.N. d/-
the 2nd Nov. 1943..

2. The El. Engr. to Govt. has submitted draft order to be served on the Coys. which are not allowed to commence supply of el. energy. It does not seem to called for any remarks. The R.L.A. may be requested u.o. to scrutinise it.

3. The El. Engr. to Govt. has no remarks to offer on the draft Press Note on pp 19 & 20 ante. The Director of Information may be requested u.o. to issue it and send 10 copies thereof to this office. It does not seem necy. to trouble A(R) with it.

4. The receipt of file 1105/36 from the El. Engr. to Govt. may be awaited .

Sd/-

U.O R. to the Director of Information and
the R.L.A. (in succession) ^{3/12/43} 284 4th Dec. 1943.

~~1932/36.~~

(By registered post)

No. 1932/36-El..

P. W. D.

B.C. 20th Decr. 1943.

(Separately to each)

.....

From

The Dy. Secy, to the Government of Bombay
P.W.D.

To

- (1) Balwantbhai Dadubhai Desai, Esq.,
- (2) Keshav Vyankatesh Sane, Esq.,
- (3) Wasudeo Janardhan Sathhai, Esq.,
- (4) Wasudeo Janardhan Sathhai, Esq.,
- (5) Motiram Gangaram Bendale, Esq.,
- (6) Irana Piraji Uplap, Esq.,
- (7) Messrs. Jambusar Electric Supply Co. Ltd.

Subject:-

- (1) The Dakor-Umrath El. License, 1940
- (2) The Athani El. License, 1940
- (3) The Kopergaon El. License, 1940.
- (4) The Belapur Town and Belapur Road
Electric License, 1940.
- (5) The Pachora El. License, 1940.
- (6) The Dhond El. License, 1940.
- (7) The Jambusar El. License, 1941.

Dear Sir,

I am directed to invite your attention to G.I.No. (1) 805/36-M, d/- the 25-7-42
(2)-6) 5521/36-M, d/- the 27-7-42
(7) 1614/36-M, d/- the 25-7-42

and to forward the annexed order requiring you
not to proceed with the erection of any works
authorised under the I.E. Act. 1910 (IX of 1910)
for the purpose of supply of el. energy.

2. The order in question has been
necessitated by the serious general supply posit.
as regards electrical plant and equipment.

Yours faithfully,

D.A. The order
reld. to.

Copy, with copy of the order, to-

- (1) The Commr., M.D.,
The Collr., of Kaira,
The El. Engr. to Govt.

with ref. to Govt. endt No. 805/36-M dated
the 20th July 1942.

1932/36

(2)

The Commr.; S.D.,
The Collr. of Belgaum,
The El. Engr. to Govt.

with ref. to govt. endt. No. 5521/36-M, dated.
the 27th July 1942

(3) and (4)

The Commr., C.D.,
The Collr. of Ahmednagar,
The El. Engr. to Govt.,

With ref. to Govt. endt. No. 5521/36-M, dated
the 27th July 1942.

(5)

The Commr., C.D.,
The Collr. of East Khandesh,
The El. Engr. to Govt.

with ref. to govt. endt. No 5521/36-M dated
the 27th July 1942.

(6)

The Commr., C.D.,
The Collr. of Peena,
The El. Engr. to Govt.

with ref. to govt. endt. No. 5521/36-M, dated
the 27th July 1942.

(7)

The Commr. N.D.,
The Collr. of Breach and P.M.,
the El. Engr. to Govt.

with ref. to Govt endt. No 1614/36-M, dated
the 25th July 1942.

(1 to 7) The Sectretay to the Govt. of India,
Deptt. of labour, with ref. to his letter No.
A.852, dated the 7th Sept. 1943.

The El. Commr. with the Govt. of India

with ref. to the G. of I. endt. No. A.852, dated

the 7th sept. 1943 and the corres. ending with

this Govt. letter No. 5521/36-M. dated the

5-10-42.

2. A copy of this Govt. press Note No. P-11 52

dated the 4th Decr. 1943 warning the

propective

consumers

1932/36

consumers about the risks involved in fitting their premises for el. supply in anticipation of the issue of a permit accompanied.

3. The question whether or not the Athani El. Licensee should be allowed to commence supply of el. energy is under the consideration of this Government.

.....
* (add in the case of encls. to the Commr. Collrs., and the El. Engr. in all cases)

2. The Collr. should give wide publicity to the accompanying Press note No. P. 1152, dated the 4th Dec. 43.

Ed/-

17/12/43

A (R) - I agree would it not.

also be useful to send copies of true note
to the Association of ^{un} Mr. Hall Paton is
President ^{1) Forget} (right its exact name ²⁾ If no action
may be taken accordingly intact return of papers
to me.

Do So
Assn of Electric
Undertaking

~~Eds.~~

18/12/43

No. 1932/36

D.O. 20th Dec. 1943.

To
The President,
The Association of El. Undertakings,
Bombay Province.

Subject:- Construction of el.
installation in anticipation
of the issue of permit.

Dear....

Dear Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith for the
information of your Assocn. a copy of Govt.
press Note No. P.1152 dated 4th Dec. ¹⁹⁴³ 1953 on
the subject mentioned above.

D.A. Copy of the

Yours faithfully ,

fresh note referred to.

issue Govt. ^{letters} ls. and encls on pp33-35

anti also and then submit for the

information of Secy.

By Registered Post.

Dakor,
28th December 1943.

From

Balwantbhai Dadubhai Desai, Esquire,
Managing Director,
The Dakor-Umreth Electricity Co. Ltd, Meadows House, Meadows St,
Fort, Bombay.

To

The Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Public Works Department,
Bombay.

Subject:- Restriction order under Rule 81(2)
Defence of India Rules..

.....

Dear Sir,,

I beg to ~~ka~~ acknowledge the letter No. 1932/36-B1 dated 21
20th December 1943 together with the order referred to above,, in
compliance to that I beg to assure you that no new erection work
shall be undertaken or proceeded with under the Dakor.-Umreth -
Electric License 1940. As a matter of fact I have stopped such
kind of work since a very long time excepting for small repairs of
works of a protective nature such as providing protection to the
wooden poles against white ant, decay etc or against thefts and
interference with respect to transmission lines and the Power -
plant. Further it is necessary to maintain a small staff for admi-
nistrative work and in order to lessen the burden of expenses their
services are being utilised for purposes mentioned above which do
not involve any use of electrical plant, equipment, machinery etc.
In my last letter I had inquired if the Government would also wish
to stop such work and I again request you to make this point clear.

Here I may also take the opportunity of humbly bringing
to the notice of the Government that an impossible situation is
being built up by the various restrictions and it is getting incr-
easingly more difficult to cope with the same as already mentioned
in our previous correspondence..

Kindly excuse trouble

Yours faithfully,

Thanking you,

1932/36
36943

P.W.D.

El. Dr.

Acknowledged under No. 1932/36 El. of the 31st Dec. 1943

Sd/-

30-12-43

1932/36
36960

36546, 36626, 36700
36701, 36702, 36708
and 36943.

El. Bra.

Submitted (together with the marginally noted Serial Nos.)

2. There does not seem to be any objection to be work of the nature mentioned in para. I. of the letter of the managing Director Dakor Umreth El Co. Ltd. on page p ante being carried out. the El. Engr. to Govt. may however be requested U.I. to advise..

10/11/44

U. O. R. to the Elec. Engr. to Govt. dt. 11/11/44

28

No SRM 31

4491 Dated: 20-1-44.

Returned
Received with Compliments

2. I agree with para 2 of the Secretariat office^{note} on
page 55.

Sd/-
Electrical Engineer to Govt.
P.W.D. Bombay.

.....
(By registered post.)
No.1932/36 El.

P.W.D.
B.C., 18th Febry. 1944.

To

The Dakor-Umreth El. Supply Coy., Ltd.,
Meadows House, Meadows Street.
Fort, Bombay.

Subject: - The Dakor-Umreth El. License, 1940.

Dear Sir,

With ref. to letter dated the 28th December 1943.
from your Managing Director Mr. B.D. Desai, I

am.....

am directed to inform you that there is no--
objection to the work on the nature mentioned
in para. 1 thereof being carried out .

2. In the order requiring you not to proceed with
the erection of any works authorised under the I.E. Act,
1910 (IX of 1910) for the purpose of supply of el. energ
the name of your managing Director. Mr. B. D. Desai was
mentioned as licensee - vide G. L. No. 1932/36-El. dat
ted the 20th Decr. 1943. addressed to Mr. Desai and the
order accompanying it. As the Dakor Unrath El. license.
1940 is held by you at present a fresh order of the sam
nature mentioning your name as a licensee is forwarded
herewith. The previous order served on Mr. Desai is
cancelled.

Yours faithfully,

DGA.- the order
refd. to.

copy

1932/35. -

Copy to Mr. B.D. Datta, Managing Director,
The Taker, - Umroth Al. Supply
Company, Limited.

Extract
Annexed Para. 2 with a copy of the French order
forwarded to-

The Secy. to the Govt. of India, Deptt.
of Labour,

The L. Commr. with the G. of L.,

The Commr., H.D.,

The Collector of Kaira.

The Electrical Engineer to Govt.,

with ref. to (this) Govt. order No. 1932/35- EL., dated
the 20th Decr. 1943.

By order Secy.

Edw. Adal Henry.

* to be added in the case of the copy to the Govt. of
India, Deptt. of Labour and the L. Commr. with the Govt.
of India.

Id/

15/2/44

REF. No. 676.

The Minister of price Control,
Government of Bombay,
B O M B A Y. No 1

Sir,

Re, - Daylight Loot in firewood business.

The exorbitant rate now ruling in firewood price is nothing short of day light looting. It is nothing but a mockery of trade if it can be called as free trade. It is difficult to understand the underlying reasons of the continuation of such a state of affairs. We have several complaints till date but with no result knowingly or unknowingly the Government officers have always stood the merchant class and have always given the lift till they hear general public uproar for the heavy prices. It is no use narrating the whole rotten episode of trade practices; but only a slight glance over a few lines will show that what has been said by us is more correct and appealing than any other figures that may be produced to justify the Government attitude ~~for~~ or the ruling price.

A. The price of Panchmahals firewood was only Rs. 4-8-0 per ton for a ready cut firewood in 1939 at Godhra which is Rs. 60/- to 70/-

B. The Government can easily certify that even from E.B. & C.I. Railway records to whom the very firewood contractors of Panchmahals were supplying ready cut dry wagon loaded firewood at Rs. 3/- per ton in the year 1939.

C. Our company which was using firewood only used to work on a monthly expense of Rs. 2,075/- only is now working at an expense of Rs. 14,000/- (fourteen thousand) on coal and wood. Compared to the present ruling price of firewood the same would have been Rs. 30,000/-

D. The Government is strong enough to enquire about the prices - the prices then ruling and can easily compare ~~it~~ it is not prepared to accept our figures of expenses as correct which has been duly audited by the Government Auditors.

E.....

B. It may please be noted that the Forest Department placed many forest coupes in auction bid for the year 1947-48 with a specific binding that the forest products will be sold at Rs. 20/- per ton station delivery. Is it not a breach of trust now to allow these same contractors to sell the same stuff at Rs. 60/- per ton.

F. How can the same be defended under a mere excuse for a free trade policy.

G. How can the ruling price of Rs. 60/- per ton be termed a legitimate price of firewood at panchayat rates.

H. Of course the forest department is sure to get the share in the next tender or auction bid sale by obtaining the higher bid of forest coupes.

I. If that is the only motive of the Government that it must obtain the higher profit i.e., by 1000% more than pre-war, we have nothing to say or add. The public must therefore suffer under such awful continuation and there can be no end of the same.

J. It is not understood how can the Government expect any outsider to step in the business as the ^{old} gang is allowed a free and unlimited scope of profit. Moreover if the accumulation of the money is the only ~~greatest~~ goal and the tender system is the only just and proper method, the easiest method will be to place the food stuffs imported from abroad in auction bid. Food and firewood are inseparable items for the human being of this vast country amounting to about 90% of the population. The food stuffs will positively fetch more money to the Government Treasury if sold in auction bid system than even firewood.

We are sorry to write what has been said about but it is now getting unbearable and the Government as Government must intervene to reduce the prices of firewood within the easy reach of the common people i.e. Rs. 10/- per ton at the most f.o.r. compared

to H.A.
prices of prewar., base. Looking to the currency inflation the price
must cannot or must not remain more than Rs. 10/- to 12/- per ton for
a ready cut dry firewood .

Hoping to be excused for the trouble, and awaiting to hear
favourably in the matter.

Your obedient servant,

Sd/-

Engineer & Manager.

T.

With B.C. copy for information forwarded to:-

1. The collector & the District Magistrate, Panchmahals, Godhra.
2. The Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle, NAGIK. C.I.P.R.
3. The Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay P.W.D. Bombay.

S/-
ENGINEER & MANAGER,

Ely. Br.F.W.D.

The Godhra Ely. Co., Ltd. in its letter addressed to the Minister for Price Control, complains against enormous rise in the price of forest coupes of fuel. It is for the R.D. to deal with the question of fuel coupes. That Dept. may see the Co's letter within (which has already been endorsed to the conservator of Forests, N.E. who will ^{presumably} ~~personally~~ submit the necy. report to Government in R.D.) and may keep a copy thereof if necy for taking a suitable action in the matter.

2. Incidentally it is stated that the Godhra co., has been representing since long for the allotment of certain forest coupe at concessional rates. This Dept. recommended the ~~Extremes~~ Co's case to the R.D. in that Dept. file No. 7599-D. It seems from 'A' on p ante that the R.D. has rejected the Co's request. It is, however, seen from 'B' on the same page that further representation from the Co in this respect is under consideration of the R.D. that Dept. may please state for the information of this Dept. whether any coupes have been allotted to the Co. at concessional rates or whether the Co's request has been finally rejected altogether.

Idl 17/9/48

V.O to R.D.

Rev. Dept
D Br.

The P.W.D. wants to know for its information whether any coupes ~~sumax~~ have been allotted to the Godhra Electricity Co. at concessional rates - vide please 'B' of para 2 of this Dept. Endt. No. 7599 D/39 dated 31-7-48 to the C.C.F. Please ^{connection} see in this ~~connection~~ the C.C.F.'s letter No. 83.C/9179 Dated 4-9-9-48 forwarding copy of the Conser. N.W.C's letter No. G.4/4115, dated 11.8.48 addressed to the G.E.Co. which disposes of the Co's request for allotment of coupes at concessional rates. The reply given by the conser. is in accordance with the decision of Govt. communicated to the A.H.N.R. Khalpa in G.L. No. 7599 d/39 dated 31st July 1948. A copy of each of the C.C.F.'s letter and conservator's letter ^{referred} requested to as 'A' above may, ~~sumax~~ subject to approval be forwarded to the P.W.D. with these papers with an expression of Concurrence in this Conservator's ^{disposal} ~~improval~~ of the Co's application..

ca /

U.O.R. to P.W.D. dated 29-9-48.

Letter, No. G.4/4115, dated 11th August 1948
from the conservator of Forests, North Western Circle addressed to
the Manager and Engineer, and Godhra Electricity Company, Godhra.
.....

Subject:- Sale of Forest Coupe to the Godhra Electric
company, Godhra.

Ref:- Your No. 517 of 16/7/48.

"With reference to your letter under reference addressed to
me and copies to (1) the Chief Conservator of Forest, B.P. (2) The
Divisional Forest Officer, Panch Mahala, and (3) The Revenue Depart-
ment, Bombay, I have to inform you that the Government have under
their letter, No. 7599-D/39, dated 31/7/48 directed to inform you
that you should acquire the coupe in the ordinary course by bidding
or giving a tender at the auction sale. You are therefore, requested
to give a tender for the coupe which you wish to purchase. The date
for accepting tender is fixed for the 24th August 1948 at Godhra."

LETTER.

Subject:- Sale of Forest coupons
to the ~~Godhra~~ Electric Co.

No. 83-C/9179 of 48-49.

Poona 1,4/5th September 1948.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department, Bombay.

Reference: Government endorsement, No. 7593-D/59,
dated 31/7/48-para-3

A copy of letter, No. C-4/4115, dated 11/3/48
from the Conservator of Forests, North Western cir-
cle, to the Manager, Godhra Electric Company in
reply to the latter's letter, No. 517 of
16/7/48 is enclosed for information.

Sd/- (M.T.C. Vao)

Chief Conservator of Forests,
Province of Bombay

1932/36/54036.

Sl. Br.

Subtd. for information with reference to the O.N. of the 16-9-48.

2. The R.D. has since rejected the Godhra & Co's. request for allotment of forest coupes at concessional rates. No action is ~~is~~ necessary on these papers, which may be recorded after Sl. Engr. has been for his information, the decision of Government in R.D. in the matter.

Od/-

5/10/48

U.O. to Sl. Engr. to Govt. of dated 7th 10-48

1932/36/54086.

Bl. Engr.

Subtd. for information with reference to the O.N. of the 16-9-48.

2. The R.D. has since rejected the Godhra I Co's. request for allotment of forest coupes at concessional rates. No action is necessary on these papers, which may be recorded after Bl. Engr. has been for his information, the decision of Government in R.D. in the Matter.

88/-

5/10/48

G.O. to Bl. Engr. to Govt. of dated 7th 10-48